The Theremin Comes to the Trenton Computer Festival
ELECTRONIC MUSIC FROM THE AIR at TCF2008

The College of New Jersey, Ewing Township, NJ
Theremin Concerts and Demonstrations

Saturday, April 26th, 2008	Sunday, April 27th, 2008
12:25 pm to 1:20 pm – Concert	11:40 am to 12:40 pm – Concert
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Demonstration	2:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Demonstration

On April 26th and 27th, the Trenton Computer Festival will be playing host to thousands of examples of the latest technology, but also to one of the oldest and *strangest* – the THEREMIN. Demonstrating this grandfather of all electronic instruments will be Kip Rosser, one of the most accomplished thereminists in the country.

The theremin: while most people may not know it by name, or even know it if they saw it, they'd definitely recognize the sound. It's the ultimate futuristic sound – the future of SciFi films of the fifties, that is. It's that eerie wailing sound of everything from ghosts to flying saucers. It's also the sound of dementia and psychosis as heard in films like *The Lost Weekend* and *Spellbound*.

Named after its inventor, Lev Sergeivitch Termen (Leon Theremin), this fascinating instrument first appeared in 1919. It shocked and amazed then just as it does now; it was the world's first fully electronic musical instrument. Today it remains the only instrument ever invented that is played without being touched. The player (thereminist) makes music and sounds by waving both hands in and around two invisible electromagnetic fields.

It's magical, beautiful, and, according to Kip Rosser, it's also the silliest instrument ever invented. "The sight of someone standing there, hands 'conducting' the air while ethereal music seems to come from nowhere is totally bizarre." That said, Rosser is also totally devoted to the instrument. While he takes playing very seriously – and he'd have to, considering how difficult playing the theremin can be – he's also equally irreverent about it, as evidenced in many of his concerts and demonstrations. From telling a sound-only version of The Three Bears to using a hamburger metaphor to illustrate the underlying physics of the theremin's ability to produce sound, Rosser finds entertaining ways to introduce the instrument to audiences everywhere. During a recent engagement, he was asked to perform in an executive dining room with spectators seated around the gigantic table. He rose to the occasion by encouraging audience members to "order" any song from among fifty pieces listed on printed menus that he provided.

In settings like the upcoming computer festival, anything goes. In addition to Rosser playing concerts, spectators can also attend the demonstrations and try the theremin out for themselves. "When given the chance," Rosser explains, "people not only have a great time, they experience first-hand what a challenge it is to play the instrument."

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see and hear one of the most unusual pieces of technology at TCF2008 – one that still seems as futuristic today as it did in 1919.

TCF is not all science and technology. This event is but one of many arts and computer/digital related activities that will be taking place at TCF2008. Show hours on Saturday, April 26th are 10 am to 5 pm. Sunday show hours are 10 am to 4 pm. The flea market opens at 9 am both days and will be a Rain or Shine event. Indoor exhibits and shopping will be held in the Student Recreation Center and speaker sessions will be held in campus classrooms and Brower Student Center. A two-day TCF admission pass is $12.50 if purchased in advance, but will be available at the door for $17. Passes for Sunday only are available for $12 at the door. For information about all of the events and activities at this year's TCF including the TCF IT Professional Conference, and to buy advanced tickets please visit http://www.tcf-nj.org/ or call the Trenton Computer Festival show management office at (201) 825-2229.